

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10296 110530Z  
ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 VO-03 ISO-00 PPTE-00 SCS-05 FSE-00  
PER-03 L-03 /025 W  
-----001662 110547Z /10

R 110516Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9263  
INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

UNCLAS TOKYO 10296

FOR SCS

E. O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: REVISION OF THE TARIFF  
OF FEES FOR CONSULAR SERVICES

REF: DEPT. A-2628 (DRAFTED 6/8/77); RECEIVED JULY 5, 1977.  
STATE 158630

THE NEW SCHEDULE FOR CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS TO MARRIAGE IS  
\$45. EMBASSY RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT TO MAKE JAPAN  
AN EXCEPTION TO THIS STEEP INCREASE IN THE FEE. WHILE YOUR  
REASONING FOR THE INCREASE CANNOT BE DENIED IN ITS LOGIC  
FOR MANY COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION IN JAPAN  
MERITS RECONSIDERATION BEFORE THE SCHEDULE OF FEES IS TO BE  
IMPLEMENTED. THE HARDSHIP WE HAVE IN MIND, PRIMARILY,  
CONCERNS THE ENLISTED MEN OF THE MILITARY SERVICES AND OTHER  
YOUNG AMERICANS WHO HAVE YET TO ACQUIRE COMFORTABLE INCOMES.  
JAPAN, ESPECIALLY TOKYO, IS A HIGH-COST COUNTRY IN MEETING  
BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS \$1000/MONTH RENTALS FOR  
\$250/MONTH EQUIVALENT APARTMENTS IN THE WASHINGTON  
AREA; GASOLINE PRICES (MILITARY BASES ARE EXCEPTIONS  
BUT THEIR BENEFITS ARE ALSO LIMITED TO THE MILITARY  
AND EMBASSY; CONSULATE PERSONNEL MUST USE LOCAL  
RESOURCES) IN THE TOKYO AREA CURRENTLY COST ABOUT  
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\$1.80/GAL WITH ALL INDICATIONS POINTING TO EVEN HIGHER  
PRICES WITH THE DOLLAR'S VALUE GOING DOWN DAILY AND  
PROSPECTS OF INCREASING OIL PRICES SINCE JAPAN IS 99 PERCENT  
DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL.  
IN ADDITION TO THE MONETARY HARDSHIP THE NEW SCHEDULE  
WOULD ENTAIL, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE  
JAPANESE MARRIAGE DOCUMENT IS IN THE HOST COUNTRY'S

LANGUAGE AND WHILE LEGAL IN JAPAN WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR AN AMERICAN TO USE AS A LEGAL DOCUMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE JAPANESE SYSTEM IS ALSO TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE U.S. AND THE WEST. THE JAPANESE SYSTEM CENTERS AROUND THE TRADITIONAL AND AGE-OLD FAMILY REGISTER MAINTAINED AT THE CITY HALL, WARD OFFICE OF ONE'S FAMILY DOMICILE, OR VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS. THE MARRIAGE IS LEGAL UNDER JAPANESE LAWS AS SOON AS ONE'S NAME IS ENTERED IN THE GROOM'S FAMILY REGISTER AND THE BRIDE'S NAME IS REMOVED FROM HERS UPON PRESENTATION OF PROPER DOCUMENTS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE. THE SYSTEM IS AN EXCELLENT ONE AND MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE JAPANESE VERY WELL. FOR AMERICANS, HOWEVER, IT IS ANOTHER STORY. PERHAPS 99 PERCENT OF THEM DO NOT KNOW THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE WELL ENOUGH (WRITTEN FORM PARTICULARLY) TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DOCUMENT STATES NOT TO MENTION UNDERSTANDING THE ORAL QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT THE TIME OF MARRIAGE WITHOUT THE EMBASSY'S PREPARATION OF THE NECESSARY INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE VISIT TO THE WARD OFFICE (TOKYO'S CASE MINATO-KU WARD OFFICE; THEY ACCEPT OUR DOCUMENTS WITHOUT QUESTION BUT WOULD BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS OF ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO GET MARRIED WITHOUT A VISIT TO THE EMBASSY). STRICTLY SPEAKING FROM A LEGAL POINT-OF-VIEW, THE

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CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS TO MARRIAGE IS NOT NECESSARY BUT FROM A PRACTICAL POINT-OF-VIEW IT IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST. THE INS FREQUENTLY WILL ONLY RECOGNIZE THE CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS TO MARRIAGE FOR PROOF OF MARRIAGE. OTHER AMERICAN AUTHORITIES: FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD TAKE A SIMILAR POSITION. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE LISTED CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION FOR AN EXCEPTION-TO-THE-RULE FOR TOKYO AND ALL CONSTITUENT POSTS IN JAPAN, OR DEVELOP AN ENTIRE NEW FORM TO MEET THIS SITUATION UNIQUE TO JAPAN AT A LOWER TARIFF RATE.

MANSFIELD

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Line Count:** 107  
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**Office:** ACTION SCA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE A-2628  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Date:** 10-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1896829  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REVISION OF THE TARIFF OF FEES FOR CONSULAR SERVICES  
**TAGS:** CGEN, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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